



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, nationwide, roughly a third of all high schools students (grades 9-12) are current smokers; along with one out of every seven and eight graders; and,

WHEREAS, more than five million high school students are current smokers; and more than one third of all kids who ever try smoking a cigarette become new regular, daily smokers before leaving high school; and,

WHEREAS, roughly one out of three youth smokers will ultimately die prematurely from smoking-related diseases, unless current trends are reversed; and,

WHEREAS, smoking kills more than 400,000 Americans each year, representing more deaths than from AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, murders, drugs, and fires combined; and,

WHEREAS, many of these deaths could be prevented; and,

WHEREAS, Kick Butts Day is an annual national initiative sponsored by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids that makes elementary, middle and high school students leaders in the fight against youth tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke; and,

WHEREAS, the children of Webb County will no longer tolerate the tobacco industry's effort to manipulate them into buying lethal and addictive products through insidious advertising campaigns and marketing practices; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Webb wishes to stand up with the children of Laredo, Texas in opposition to the sale, advertising and marketing of tobacco products to children; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Louis H. Bruni, by virtue of the authority vested in me as **Webb County Judge**, on behalf of the **Commissioners Court**, do hereby proclaim **April 2,2003**, as:

“KICK BUTTS DAY”

In the **County of Webb**, and in doing so, urge all citizens to join the effort to fight heart disease.

The Honorable Louis H. Bruni
Webb County Judge